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The Athenian Mercury.

Saturday, September 22. 1694.

Quest. 1. *GEntlemen, I have been a lover of* Histories, *both ancient and modern, from my Youth; I have lately met with one intituled,* **A Detection of the Court and State of England**, *&c.* by *Roger Coke*, Esq; written with an Air, and in a method so different from what I have found in others, that I cannot forbear troubling of you with these few *Queries* concerning it:

1. *I desire to know your Opinion of the truth and sincerity of the History it self?*
2. *Whether the method the Author pursues, as it differs from, so if it doth not excel others?*
3. *Whether the Observations and Reflections he makes, be proper in a Work of this Nature?*

Answ. We have with some difficulty procured the Book the *Querist* mentions (*it being printed privately*) and have taken the pains to peruse it carefully, that we might be enabled to give the best account of it we can. And indeed we must in Justice own our Trouble well recompented by the pleasure we find in reading it; and therefore,

To the *first Query* we answer, That Truth is sacred and bold; and as such the Author has paid unto it the greatest deference of any Historian in this or the preceeding Ages; and surely as this does not a little cotribute to his Honour, so 'tis as much a scandal to others, who have declined this sacred Path, and written either for profit or Parties.

As to the *second Question*, we answer, That *Method* and Order are desirable in all things, and in nothing more than History, of which there are yet no Writings more barren, most contenting themselves with a bare Narrative of matter of Fact, which makes a story at best but dull and insipid; but here you have first the *Causes* assigned, and then the *Effects* that followed in a *continued Series*; and though we must say, That no History was ever intermixt with more variety of Accidents, in so short a time, yet you have all rendered so obvious to the Understanding, as well as written with so *lively an Air*, and clearness of Judgment, that the Reader must needs find it as much diverting and pleasurable as instructive and profitable; and notwithstanding the *Author's Person* be unknown to us, yet this, together with a most lively Representation of the Humours, as well as the *SECRET ACTIONS* of the times he writes of, so as if he were *coævous* with almost every part of the Story; which perhaps, upon a due inspection, will be found to give it no small lustre, induces us to an easie belief of the Character we have had of his being of great Years as well as Parts, of ancient Descent, (being *Grandson* to that Great *Oracle of the Law*, Sir *Edward Coke*, Lord Chief Justice of *England*); Liberal Education, and inquisitive Nature; besides his having had the advantage of an uninterrupted Converse with Persons of the highest Quality and Abilities in the Kingdom.

As to the *third Query*; Were the making such Observations and Reflections otherwise a Crime in an Historian, yet we look upon these so useful, appolite and Judicious, that it were extreamest pity to strip so Noble a Piece of any of its Ornaments. In a word, the whole is a *GREAT ORIGINAL*, and as it is far above our Praises, so we could heartily wish it might be assumed for a Pattern by all succeeding *Historiographers*: And we cannot but resent it, that such a Work as this should be forced to wear a *Veil*, and be confined to the silent Entertainment of a few *Curious Persons*; whereas it is of equal concernment and benefit to every *Englishman*.

Quest. 2. *What is the Wind, and whence it proceedeth?*

Answ. We know what the Wind is, as much as we know what Water is; for both are easily felt, and one is found to be made up of much more thin and fluid Particles than the other.

Quest. 3. *Why is not the Motion of the Wind right upward and downward, as well as always side-long?*

Answ. Because the motion of the Earth, in whose Vortex it is, and with which it makes one Body, is circular.

Quest. 4. *Seeing my self concerned in the fifth Question of a late* Mercury, *finding the Case not fairly stated, and I likely to be the greatest sufferer through the mistake, thought a true Account was owing both to my own misfortune, and the probability there might be of being assisted by your advice. A Gentleman courted me for a Wife, but I fearing at first that he was the rather induced to it, in hopes of a Fortune, than out of a real Esteem, freely told him, after three or four times seeing him, that I had none; which I took occasion often to confirm: but he still pursued his Addresses for a considerable time, with the same warmth: And I must confess, That his Love, with his other good Qualities, kindled in my Breast a resembling Flame, with this difference, That in mine it has made such a strong, and lasting impression, that it is become a part of my very Essence, and so interwoven with the Faculties of my Soul, that I can no more live without loving than without thinking or breathing. But on the contrary, some of his Acquaintance, that were my Enemies, have perswaded him to forsake me, because I had not what they expected, although that was no Argument with him formerly, he having often declared to me, he had rather marry me with nothing, than any other person with a considerable Fortune. They have, as you may perceive, too much prevailed with him for my Happiness, the thoughts of which, and that I must always live without him, has so discomposed my mind, that I am not always Mistress of my Reason. I should not have troubled you with this unhappy Relation, but in hopes that by your advice my Ruine might some way be diverted; and if that should be impossible, I beg your Opinion, whether or no I may not hope to be happy hereafter, although I should take some speedy Method to put a period to my present miseries?*

Answ. We pity you, Madam, as well as all others under the like Circumstances, and are very willing to offer our assistance; and if our Opinion will be any Service to you, we think the Gentleman is oblig'd in honour to marry you; but if he should unhandsomly refuse it, we are willing to hope your case is not unretrievable, and that your Resentment may, in time, make you hate him, which your Reason would advise you to now, had you the use of it; for there can be hardly any greater deformities in the Mind than Inconstancy and Ingratitude; And were you married, you have very little to hope from one that's guilty of these, and already ceases to love you; So that your best way will be to seek all manner of agreeable Diversions. 'Tis true, this Advice will not be so very grateful to you now, but we'll promise ye, you shall find the benefit of it, if you'll but put it in practice. And tho it is a Vertue to be Constant to those that deserve it, 'twould be as great a Folly to continue to love such as are perfidious to us. Therefore we are utterly againft Hanging or Drowning, and will not assure any such desperate Lover, an happy place in the *Elysian Shades*.

Quest. 5. *A Gentlewoman having a very kind Husband, that died some years since, she made a solemn Vow she would never*

never marry again; but since, having a Kindness for another man, they have lived some time together as Man and Wife, because she would keep her Vow: Qu. Whether she had better break her Vow, or live as she doth.

Answ. Her Vow is undoubtedly already broke; the Question only is, whether she ought to become honest; and if she can't determine that without our Assent, we shall not scruple to affirm, she may safely do it, how contrary soever it may be to the Fashionable Opinion of the Age.

Quest. 6. *A person of my acquaintance that has a considerable Estate to live upon, cannot maintain himself with it, not so much out of Extravagancy, as Fickleness, having no sooner order'd his Servant to do any thing one way, but he as soon contradicts it, and commands them to do it another; the effects of which he is displeased at, and his friends advise him to put all his Affairs under the care of some faithful servant; which he's afraid will not be so honourable for him; but is resolved to follow your Approbation in it.*

Answ. Of all Fools the manageable one is best both for himself and others too, because 'tis not impossible but he may happen into wise hands, and then he's sure to do better than he could of himself. So if this person can get a discreet Steward, he may not only have the benefit of his Government, but also the Credit of it.

Quest. 7. *Can Women be too curious in their choice of Husbands?*

Answ. Yes, because sometimes by that means they out-live all advantagious offers: Though 'tis very well for them to be cautious, since there are not too many men that make good ones.

P: M: S:
Lector, Willhelmi nuper Archipræsulis
(Qui natus in Vicinia—)
Quod morte cecedit, propter hunc murum jacet,
Atqui resurgit, tu interim
Semper paratus esto nam quâ non putas.
Venturus horâ Dominus est

Obiit Novemb. 24. Anno { Nat. Dom. MDCLXXXXIII / Ætat. suæ LXXVII.

P: M: S:
William Sancroft, born in this Parish,
afterwards, by the Providence of God, Arch-
Bishop of *Canterbury*, and at last deprived
of all he could not keep with a Good Conscience,
returned hither to end his Life, where he began it;
And professeth here at the Foot of his Tomb, That
as he Naked came forth, so Naked he must return.
The Lord giveth, and the Lord hath taken away:
As the Lord pleaseth, so come things to pass:
Blessed be the Name of the Lord.

Over his Head a Stone, with these words, viz.

As the Lightning cometh out of the *East*, and shineth even unto the *West*, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.

Gentlemen, I receiv'd this out of the Country, and question not the Exactness of it, having had it from a very good Hand, and believe it will not be an unwelcome Curiosity, his Lordship having been so known a Person, and generally believ'd a very good Man, though mistaken in some Things, which are well enough known to the present Age. I am inform'd, the whole Epitaph was made by himself. He lies buried in Frezerfield *Church-Yard, in* Suffolk-Close, *by the Church-wall, at the Foot of his Father's Grave. Yours, &c.*

☞ THE 14th Volume *of the* Athenian Mercury *is now publish'd; done up in Marble Paper, with a* General Title, Preface *and* Index *to it.*

Advertisement.

☞ THE *UNDERTAKER* of this Paper is Removed from the *Poultry*, to the *Raven* in *Jewen-street*, where you may have Money for any *Library*, or *Parcel of Books*; as also *Entire Sets* of *Athenian Gazetts*, or single *Mercuries* to compleat Sets, and all other New Peices publisht from time to time. Here is also sold *Elixir Stomachium*, or the great Cordial *Elixir* for the Stomach—— This is further to give Notice, that all *Questions* sent to the *Athenian Society*, must be directed to *JOHN DUNTON*, living at the place aforesaid.

☞ For further *Directions*, Enquire at the Corner of *Bull-head*-Court in *Jewen-Street*.

☞ A Narrative of the *Conversion* of Wackerneſſe, late of *March* in the *Isle* of *Ely*, who was condemn'd for *Robbery*, &c. and executed at *Wisbech*, *Aug.* 19. 1694. with an Account of his *Penitential Behaviour*, and *Discourses with the Minister* who came to visit him. Published by the Reverend Mr. *J. Burroughs*, Minister of *Wisbech*.

Several Gentlemen of the Universities of *Oxford* and *Cambridge*, have so highly approved Mr. *Sault*'s Translation of Malbranches Search after Truth, *(the first Volume of which was lately publish'd in* London *in* Octavo, *that so useful a Work might be fit for the Pocket,) as that it has greatly encouraged the Sale* at *Oxford* and *Cambridge*, and occasioned the Undertakers to send great Numbers thither a *Second Time*, and to expedite the Publication of the *Second Volume*. The Extraordinary Usefulness of this Work of Malbranches, may be seen at large in the Book lately publish'd by the Reverend Mr. Norris, intituled, *Spiritual Counsel, or the Father's Advice to his Children*. Printed for *S. Manship*, at the *Ship* in *Cornhil*.

LONDON, Printed for John Dunton at the *Raven* in Jewen-Street, 1694.